

CLASSIFICATION <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	
COUNTRY <del>Poland</del> <u>Poland</u>	REPORT
TOPIC <u>Military Activity at Oppeln (Opole)</u>	
25X1	
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED
25X1	
DATE OF CONTENT	25X1
DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED <u>22 August 1955</u>
25X1	
REFERENCES	
PAGES <u>2</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS	
This is UNEVALUATED Information	

1. Prior to winter 1954, the former Nachrichtenkasernen at Oppeln (P 51/J 17) was occupied by Polish armored force personnel. For several years the installation had been occupied by these units. Only tanks with revolving turrets, probably of type T-34, were observed at the installation. Soldiers in olive-drab uniforms served their regular period of duty. Some of them wore red cap ribbons.<sup>1</sup>
2. Units with various heavy weapons were seen at the barracks installation which was located at the southwestern perimeter of Halbendorf (P 51/J 17), west of ul. Domanskiego. Tanks with revolving turrets of type T-34, about 15 armored reconnaissance vehicles and three-axle trucks towing 76-mm field guns and guns of heavy caliber, type of which could not be identified, were observed at the installation. In autumn 1954, the unit returned to their post on coming from summer exercises. Tanks of a heavier type than the T-34 were seen. It could not be determined where these tanks were stationed. Numerous trucks of type ZIS-151 and GAS 63 were parked at the Halbendorf Kaserne. All soldiers observed wore olive-drab uniforms with red cap ribbons. There was no activity at the headquarters of the installation.<sup>1</sup>
3. Prior to fall 1954, the installation near Stefanshoeh, west of ul. Pruszkowska, was occupied by motorized infantry personnel. The soldiers wore olive-drab uniforms with red service color. About 10 light AA guns and 57-mm and 76-mm AT guns mounted on four-wheel chassis were observed at the installation. 1
4. Prior to late 1954, the 63d Inf Regt Kaserne in the east section of the city was heavily occupied by Polish motorized infantry personnel. The soldiers wore olive-drab uniforms with red service color. Numerous motor vehicles but no heavy weapons were seen at the installation. The installation had been occupied by these units for years. 1

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5. Prior to late 1954, a Polish headquarters or some other military office was located in the former German financial office at the crossing of ul. Kosciuszki (northern part of Moltkestrasse) and ul. Stalinogrodzka (western section of Kattowitzerstrasse). Sentries wearing red service color were seen in front of the building. Many officers were seen at the headquarters but no general was identified. Vehicular traffic included numerous jeeps. A Polish officers' club was installed in the building just north of the former German Handwerkskammer. A guard house was located east of ul. Stalinogrodzka. The occupation of the komendatura was not known. 2

The large multiple-story buildings had been built for Polish officers' families west of the Oder River at the former Breslauer Platz (Plac Pocha).

6. During 1954, individual Soviet military persons whose activity and billets were not known were seen in ul. Ozimska (Malapanerstrasse). Prior to late 1954, no Polish KBW units were stationed at Oppeln.
7. The location of the summer camps was not known. In spring, the units left their quarters by road in the direction of Turawa (P 51/S 92). In autumn, they returned through the ul. Nysa Łuzycka. No units with horse-drawn vehicles were observed.
8. For about two years, no blue-gray uniforms such as those formerly worn by Polish armored personnel, were seen in Oppeln. All soldiers wore olive-drab uniforms with long trousers, laced shoes, buckled leggings, and red cap-ribbons. The soldiers were disciplined and had a good reputation with the local residents. Since the Soviet units had left Oppeln, no essential change in the occupation had been observed.<sup>1</sup>

1. Comment. All information reported from Oppeln is known. All installations mentioned in the report are occupied by large units of the 10th Mecz Div. The individual units of this division could not be identified. Other reports confirm that apparently olive-drab uniforms instead of the old blue-gray uniforms have been introduced with armored and mechanized personnel. The color of the cap ribbon has not yet been identified. It is possible, however, that the old blue-gray uniforms are still worn.
2. Comment. According to this and to other reports, the headquarters of the 10th Mecz Div is located in the former German financial office.

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